

advised to take action to control the activities of the insurgent groups and have been given all feasible help by the Central Government in this regard.

Waste and Fallow Lands

* 806. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN:
SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate area of waste and fallow lands in the country;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring these lands under cultivation in order to increase the agricultural production;

(c) whether the Government propose to give these lands to the landless poor and weaker sections of the society on lease basis for cultivation purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The estimated area of wastelands in the country is about 129.58 million ha.; the extent of fallows, including current fallows is about 29.6 million ha.

(b) to (d): The assignment of Government was the lands for cultivation and other purposes falls under the purview of the State Governments and/subject to policies and guidelines laid down by them for this purpose. So far about 4.17 million ha. of Government wastelands in the country have been distributed to the landless rural poor, weaker sections of the society and ex-servicemen.

For the development of waste and fallow lands with assignees of ceiling surplus

land and SC/ST beneficiaries to whom their alienated lands has been restored, the Central Government provides assistance.

Improvement of the productivity of degraded lands is one of the thrusts in the following schemes and projects in operation:-

(i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects;

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers;

(iii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas;

(iv) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Reclamation of Alkali Soils in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana;

(v) EEC assisted projects of Reclamation of ravenous areas in Uttar Pradesh and Integrated watershed management in Gujarat;

(vi) Desert development Programme; and

(vii) Soil Conservation and watershed Management programmes under State sector.

Telephone Facility to Gram Panchayats

*807. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gram panchayats in the country, which are already linked with telephones, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the year-wise programme for provid-

ing telephone connections to the remaining gram panchayat headquarters in each State/Union Territory;

(c) the estimated cost of the programme for connecting the remaining gram panchayat headquarters; and

(d) the anticipated return per annum on the investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS(SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) 39632 as per details given in Statement I.

(b) (i) 12,000 Gram Panchayats are planned to be provided with telephone facility during 1991-92 as per details given in Statement II.

(ii) The programme for 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 has been proposed as under:

1992-93	48,500
1993-94	60,000
1994-95	68,000

(c) Rs. 2820 crores(approximately).

(d) This scheme is mainly welfare oriented.

Telephone facility in village Panchayats will bring people living in remote parts of the country closer thereby promoting national integration besides helping them to gain overall Socio-economic growth. Such gains cannot be evaluated in monetary terms.

STATEMENT-I

Status of Gram Panchayats with Telephone Facility

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Circle/State Telephone Facility</i>	<i>Gram Panchayats with</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4350
2.	Assam	310
3.	Bihar	3258
4.	Gujarat Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	2368 9
5.	Haryana	1107
6.	Himachal Pradesh	813
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	347
8.	Karnataka	3373
9.	Kerala	970

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Circle/State Telephone Facility</i>	<i>Gram Panchayats with</i>
LakshwaDeep*		
10.	Madhya Pradesh	3934
11.	Maharashtra	4455.
	Goa	104
12.	North East	
(i)	Arunachal	6
(ii)	Manipur	23
(iii)	Meghalaya*	*
(iv)	Mizoram*	*
(v)	Nagaland*	*
(vi)	Tripura	50
13.	Orissa	1422
14.	Punjab	624
15.	Rajasthan	2448
16.	Tamil Nadu	4618
	Pondicherry	6
17	Uttar pradesh	3517
18	West Bengal	1434
	Sikkim	29
	Andman and Nicobar Island	11
19	Delhi(U.T.)	46
	Total	39632

* Traditional Councils of villages Elders.
No Gram panchayats.

STATEMENT-II

Provision of Telephones in Gram Panchayats Programme for 1991-92.

<i>Name of State/U.T.</i>	<i>Target for 1991-92</i>
Andhra Pradesh	840
Assam	10
Bihar	600
Gujarat (Including Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu)	720
Haryana	720
Himachal Pradesh	30
Jammu and Kashmir	60
Karnataka	270
Kerala	30
Madhya Pradesh	1080
Maharashtra (Including Goa)	1200
North East (Including Arunachal, Manipur and Tripura)	180
Orissa	480
Punjab	720
Rajasthan	660
Tamil Nadu (Including Pondicherry)	870
Uttar Pradesh	3000
West Bengal (Including Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands)	360
Total	12,000